



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
WESTERN REGION  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



**JULY 30, 2002**

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

**Tribute to Ken Mielke!** Congratulations, Ken! After 31 years of outstanding Federal Service, you have decided to retire and move on to a new phase of life. As Chief of Scientific Services Division, you played a significant role in the modernization of our Western Region offices and kept our forecasters up to date on new technology and services. Under your leadership, WFO Great Falls was recognized as one of the best offices in Western Region with an outstanding warning and forecast program. You led by example, were always willing to try new ideas, looked for ways to improve, and promoted career growth and opportunities for your staff.



On behalf of the Western Region and the National Weather Service, I wish to express my gratitude for your outstanding leadership. You will be remembered for your dedication to the agency, the region, and Team Great Falls, your commitment to science, your kindness and concern for others, and a great sense of humor. I wish you a long, healthy, and fun retirement, and may your years ahead be filled with new and exciting challenges.

**Award for Excellence in Environmental Compliance, Health and Safety:** The Weather Forecast Office in Los Angeles has been named co-recipient of the NOAA FY02 "Best of the Best" Award for Excellence in Environmental Compliance, Health and Safety. Your facility earned the Award by demonstrating superior teamwork, coordination, and program performance in the areas of environmental and safety compliance. The Weather Forecast Office in Los Angeles will receive a display trophy and a cash award towards implementing environmental and safety enhancements at the facility. The following individuals contributed to the success of the Safety & Health Program at WFO LOX:

Russell Bacon- Environmental Focal Point  
Tim Meschke - Safety Focal Point  
David Gomberg - Safety Training Coordinator

Safety & Health Team:  
Gary Strickland  
Paul Halleck  
Tim McClung  
Lori-An Apodaca

Bonnie Bartling  
William Hoffer  
Bruce Rockwell  
Stuart Seto

**NOAA Home Page Statistics - January - June 2002:** The NOAA home page is on a pace to break its own record of 2001 where it received more than 202 million hits. During the last six months of 2002 (January - June), the NOAA home page received more than 110 million hits. There were more than 7 million page views during that period. The busiest months thus far were April, May and June—April had nearly 19 million hits, May had more than 20 million hits and June had nearly 21 million hits. April had more than 1,194 million page views; May had more than 1,208 million page views; and June had more than 1,347 million page views. During the April through June period, the top stories were the return of El Niño, wildfires across the USA, drought, the 2002 hurricane outlook, NOAA's new heat wave index and NOAA's newest satellite. The story on NOAA's role in mapping the World Trade Center site continues to be in the top ten each month. The story was first published October 30, 2001.

The most visited theme pages of the NOAA home page are listed below.

- 1) Weather Page: <http://www.noaa.gov/wx.html>
- 2) Fire Weather: <http://www.noaa.gov/fireweather>
- 3) NOAA's Storm Watch: <http://www.noaa.gov/stormwatch>
- 4) Site Map: <http://www.noaa.gov/sitemap.html>
- 5) Satellites: <http://www.noaa.gov/satellites.html>
- 6) Search: <http://www.noaa.gov/search.html>
- 7) Charts: <http://www.noaa.gov/charts.html>
- 8) Ocean: <http://www.noaa.gov/ocean.html>
- 9) Jobs: <http://www.noaa.gov/jobs.html>
- 10) Climate: <http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html>

The NOAA home page and NOAA products have been prominently featured by various media outlets. CNN Headline News on May 20 did a nearly three-minute segment on NOAA.gov and NOAA's hurricane center Web site. That's the day NOAA rolled out its 2002 hurricane season outlook. ABC's World News Tonight with Peter Jennings and the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather each used NOAA satellite imagery of the wildfires in the West, each time giving NOAA on-screen credit. On May 19, the New York Times ran a travel story about Web sites. The NOAA home page received high praise.

## **METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION**

**STATEMENT OF THE WEEK:** This week's Statement of the Week is a hazardous weather outlook from Flagstaff. During the monsoon season, Flagstaff is one of several offices that issues routine outlooks for thunderstorm and flash flood activity. This year, the large early season wildfires have made some areas in the West extremely vulnerable to flash flooding. WFO Flagstaff highlights some of those areas in their outlooks to help the emergency management community and allow those in potential danger to take appropriate action well in advance of flash flooding. Great customer awareness work!

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HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLAGSTAFF AZ  
1000 AM MST TUE JUL 30 2002

...A CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS NEAR THE WHITE MOUNTAINS AND THE EASTERN MOGOLLON RIM EAST OF HEBER...

DISCUSSION...THE MONSOON BOUNDARY WILL MOVE SLOWLY WEST AND NORTH TODAY BRINGING MORE MOISTURE BACK TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS...AND THE EASTERN MOGOLLON RIM EAST OF HEBER AND INTO NORTHERN GILA COUNTY. A DRY NORTH TO NORTHEAST FLOW WILL CONTINUE IN THE LOW LEVELS OF THE ATMOSPHERE ACROSS MOST OF THE AREA TODAY. NORTHERLY FLOW AND DRIER AIR IN THE LOWER-LEVELS OF THE ATMOSPHERE WILL CAUSE ANY THUNDERSTORMS THAT DO DEVELOP TO MOVE TO THE SOUTH AND POSSIBLY CONTAIN SOME BRIEF STRONG GUSTY WINDS. EXPECT A FEW THUNDERSTORMS TO EITHER DEVELOP OR CONTINUE DURING THE OVERNIGHT HOURS...MAINLY FROM THE MOGOLLON RIM SOUTH.

BURNED AREA RAIN OUTLOOK...

SMALL AMOUNTS OF RAIN CAN CAUSE FLASH FLOODING IN BURNED OUT AREAS.

RODEO-CHEDISKI BURN AREA...SCATTERED AFTERNOON SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS ARE EXPECTED...HOWEVER RAINFALL AMOUNTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE LESS THAN A HALF INCH AND SPOTTY.

INDIAN BURN AREA...AN ISOLATED LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING SHOWER OR THUNDERSTORM MAY DEVELOP OVER THE BURN AREA...HOWEVER PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS WILL BE LIGHT.

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### **McNally Fire Briefings:**

Cindy Bean, Incident Meteorologist (IMET), from WFO Hanford, participated in crew and strategy briefings at the McNally Fire. She is one of the many dedicated IMETs supporting fire fighting activities in the West.



## **HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION**

**AHPS Concept Document:** NWS Headquarters has published a document - B "Concept of Services and Operations Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services". This document provides a vision for services and operations once deployment of AHPS has been completed. The ideas presented in the document are conceptual. Actual services and operations will evolve as AHPS is incrementally implemented. A copy of the document has been sent to the WFO Hydrology Program Managers and to the River Forecast Centers. Additional copies can be obtained from the National Logistic Supply Center (816-926-3990). The document is number NOAA/PA 20058.

## **SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION**

**Numerical Weather Prediction:** Bill Bua has added the RUC sections on Atmospheric Radiation, Clouds and Radiation, and Water Surfaces. The Burk-Thompson Turbulence section and Reisner Cloud and precipitation sections were also modified. This information can be found under the NWP training section of the COMET Web site.

**Workstation Eta Update:** The SOO Science and Training Resource Coordinator released an update to the Workstation Eta local area model version 2.0. This update allows forecast offices running a local model to initialize their runs from data on the new OOS and NCEP FTP servers. The new programs also provide fail-over capability in an effort to improve reliability of local area model in the forecast process. A completely new release of the Workstation Eta will be available this fall.

**University of Utah Holds Ninth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West November 7:** The Ninth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah. The objectives of the annual workshops are to discuss major issues related to operational meteorology over the western United States and to foster interaction between researchers, applied meteorologists, and other professionals who rely on operational weather forecasts or data.

## **SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**AWIPS:** All Western Region sites have completed the version 5.2.1 upgrade. The region is about 75% complete on the implementation of the ORPG LAN to LAN connection.

**AWIPS Linux Pre-Processor:** The installation of the AWIPS Linux pre-processor at WRH is scheduled for this week. The pre-processor offloads some of the processing from the data server and should improve the performance of the data server.

**Facilities Workshop:** A facilities program workshop is being held this week at WRH. Sector Facilities Technicians (SFTs) from Western Region field offices are participating along with other managers and staff in SOD and the Regional Office.